

Message Text

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44

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-11 FPC-01 AEC-11 AID-20

CIAE-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06 DRC-01 /146 W

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R 211150Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4016

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS TUNIS 7078

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EFIN TS

SUBJECT:

PASS USDOC

1. ACCORDING TO COMMUNIQUE ISSUED DEC 20 BY TUNISIAN
ELECTRICITY AND GAS COMPANY (STEG), AGREEMENT REACHED
WITH ARAB FUND FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR
LOAN OF 3 MILLION DINARS (\$7.2 MILLION) TO FINANCE
TWO GAS-POWERED ELECTRIC POWER GENERATING TURBINES.
ARAB FUND DELEGATION HEADED BY AHMED SADEK EL KOSHERI
ARRIVED IN TUNIS DEC 16 FOR NEGOTIATIONS. FINAL
AGREEMENT IS TO BE SINGED IN KUWAIT ON DEC 29. LOAN
IS FOR 20 YEARS WITH FOUR-YEAR GRACE PERIOD AND 6 PER
CENT INTEREST RATE. FIRST TURBINE TO BE IN OPERATION
IN 1975 AND THE SECOND IN 1976.

2. COMMENT: TUNISIAN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FUNDS FROM ARAB
OIL PRODUCERS ON FAVORABLE TERMS TO HELP IMPLEMENT ITS
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DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPEARS TO HAVE MET WITH SOME SUCCESS.

AT TIME OF VISIT TO TRIPOLI BY MINISTER OF PLAN MOALLA IN
NOVEMBER, HE ANNOUNCED THAT LIBYA HAD AGREED TO 20 MILLION
DINAR (\$47 MILLION) CONTRIBUTION TO FOUR-YEAR PLAN
(TUNIS 6514) IN FOLLOWING AREAS: HYDRAULIC INFRASTRUCTURE
IN SOUTHERN OASES, CONSTRUCTION OF CEMENT PLANT IN GABES;
IMPROVEMENT OF SFAX-GAFSA ROAD; ESTABLISHMENT OF HOSPITAL
AND MEDICAL SCHOOL IN SFAX, AND HOUSING. LIBYA ALSO TO
PARTICIPATE WITH CAPITAL IN TUNISIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION (FORMERLY SNI) HEADED BY HABIB BOURGUIBA JR.
RECENT VISITS. TO TUNISIA OF EMIR AS SABAH OF
KUWAIT, SULTAN QABOUS OF OMAN AND SULTAN ZAID OF ARAB
GULF EMIRATES CLEARLY MOTIVATED IN PART BY TUNISIAN
HOPES ATTRACT PERSIAN GULF INVESTMENT FUNDS. PROPOSED
GAS TURBINES SHOULD PRESENT EXCELLENT EXPORT OPPORTUNITY
FOR US FIRMS AND SEVERAL FIRMS REPORTED TO HAVE SUB-
MITTED BIDS FOR FIRST 40-50 MEGAWAT UNIT (TUNIS
USDOC 5618 NOTAL.)

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